

1-6. (Cancelled)

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7. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method comprising the steps of:

reacting a sample of body fluid or tissue likely to contain antibodies ~~with~~ raised against one or more peptides ~~derived~~ isolated from the E2, ~~E6, and~~ E7 early coding regions of human papillomavirus 16 and 18 to diagnose cervical disease or detect cervical cellular abnormalities; b) forming a complex of said papillomavirus ~~derived~~ isolated peptide and sample antibodies; wherein the formation of said antibody-peptide complex confirms the presence of antibodies to human papillomavirus; c) and detecting said antibody-peptide complex.

8. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method according to claim 7, wherein the one or more peptide sequences is ~~selected from the group consisting of:~~ set forth in SEQ ID NO.: 1

~~Asp Ile Cys Asn Thr Met His Tyr Thr Asn Trp Thr His Ile Tyr Ile~~

~~Cys Glu Glu (SEQ ID NO:1);~~

~~His Lys Ser Ala Ile Val Thr Leu Thr Tyr Asp Ser Glu Trp Gln Arg~~

~~Asp Gln Phe (SEQ ID NO:2);~~

~~Pro Thr Leu His Glu Tyr Met Leu Asp Leu Gln Pro Glu Thr Thr Asp~~

~~Leu Tyr Cys Tyr Glu Gln Leu Asn Asp Ser Ser Glu Glu Glu (SEQ ID NO:3);~~

~~Cys Asp Ser Thr Leu Arg Leu Cys Val Gln Ser Thr His Val Asp Ile~~

~~Arg Thr Leu Glu (SEQ ID NO:4);~~

~~Glu Lys Thr Gly Ile Leu Thr Val Thr Tyr His Ser Glu Thr Gln Arg~~

~~Thr Lys Phe (SEQ ID NO:5).~~

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9. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method according to claim 8, wherein carboxymethylcysteine is substituted for one or more of said cysteine residues in said ~~sequences~~ sequence.

10. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method according to claim 8, wherein the diagnosis is made of an HPV ~~infection~~ epitope.

11. (Original) A diagnostic method according to claim 8, wherein the diagnosis made is that of an HPV associated epithelial cell abnormality.

12. (Original) A diagnostic method according to claim 8, wherein the diagnosis made is that of cervical carcinoma.

13. (Original) A diagnostic method according to claim 8, wherein the diagnosis made is that of adenocarcinoma of the uterine cervix.

14. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method according to claim 7, wherein the peptide employed is ~~derived~~ isolated from an E2 coding region and the diagnosis made is that of an ~~infection~~ with an oncogenic HPV oncoprotein epitope from HPV.

15. (Cancelled)

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16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method according to claim 7, wherein the detection step is accomplished by means of visual inspection of a color change.

18. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method according to claim 7, wherein the detection step is accomplished by a ~~spectrophometer~~ spectrophotometer.

19. (New) A diagnostic method according to claim 7, wherein the detection step further comprises inspecting said antibody-peptide complex for physical-chemical changes.

20. (New) A diagnostic method according to claim 7, wherein said cervical cellular abnormalities are associated with human papillomavirus 16, 18, 31, 33, 35, 45, 51, 52, 56 or 58.

21. (New) A diagnostic method according to claim 7, wherein said cervical cellular abnormalities are selected from the group consisting of koilocytosis, hyperkerotosis, precancerous conditions encompassing intraepithelial lesions, high-grade dysplasias, invasive cancers and malignant cancers.

22. (New) A diagnostic method according to claim 10, wherein said epitope is an antigenic region against which antibody reactivity would occur.